

CHURCH OF GOD EVANGEL

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come they were all with one accord in one place." Acts 2:1. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:4.

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THIS IS THE ASSEMBLY NUMBER OF THE EVANGEL!

General Overseer's Annual Address

PRELIMINARY

After two years of silence on the Assembly platform we greet you again with much love. It was our purpose to hold this fourteenth Annual Assembly Oct. 31 to Nov. 5, 1918, but hindered on account of the awful "INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC" it has been delayed until now Oct. 30-Nov. 4, 1919. The greetings up to this hour have been doubly pleasant. Joy has thrilled our hearts as we have taken each other by the hand, gently pressed each other's lips and shed tears of gratitude and thanksgiving. Indeed this is a twofold home-coming. Back in the Assembly once again No. 1, and back at Cleveland, Tenn., headquarters of the Church of God No. 2.

This is wonderful! Quite a goodly number of our Brothers and Sisters, both ministers and lay members, have been transplanted over on the shore since last we met, but they left bright testimonies both in every day life and words that "All is well." Of course, we miss their presence here, and their voices will not be heard in song or discourse in this Assembly, but we can think of them safely housed in their mansions in Glory, awaiting our arrival there. I fancy they are even now leaning over the battlements of heaven watching our every move and listening to every conversation. I am speaking today as if in the presence of heavenly beings. And we have the special assurance of the presence of Him who said, "My presence shall go with thee." I'd rather have His presence and His approval than to own a million worlds. We have had His presence and approval in every Assembly of the past, and I fully believe He will not forsake us now nor frown upon our deliberations. Indeed, we must walk softly and keep sweet, and have sweet fellowship and agreement and then we are sure of His presence and approbation.

Introductory

To think that God has raised us up, and placed us in His great plan, is almost too good to be true. I can think of Abraham, and Moses, and Elijah, and the Apostles being in His wonderful plan, with perfect composure. I take this as a matter of fact and pass it by without much concern, but when I acknowledge that we, here and now, are just as truly fulfilling our part of God's great drama, my heart swells with great emotion.

What more can we say than has been said? What more can we do than others have already done? But they had their day and now this is our day. We have doubtless entered the last scene of the last act of this stupendous drama, and now playing our part in it. Angels are our spectators; devils are our opposers; but this part has to be enacted as well as any other.

Noah's Part

Noah was the master on the stage, directing the performers in his day, and he did it well. The message was given, for it is said he was "A preacher of righteousness," the ark was finished, the food prepared, the animals, fowls, and his family were all gathered in, and the door was shut, then the deluge came. What a scene! Although separated from it by a space of four thousand years it is even now much more than entertaining, and marvelous to behold.

Indeed, that part of the drama seems so unreal. We read about it as history, but it is only like a dream. It is so unreal, yet we acknowledge it is true. We can scarcely believe that the waters rose on a heap until they covered the highest mountain peaks and destroyed the last animal, the last fowl of the air, and the last of the human race except those who were shut up in the walls of that floating palace. But we do not doubt the truthfulness of history.

The Assembly

We have gathered here in this Fourteenth Annual Assembly to perform our part in this same great drama. We are now on the stage. The immense audience of unseen beings have filled the huge auditorium, occupying the well furnished boxes and spacious pews. The music has begun, the foot lights are all ablaze while they throw upon the actors the luster and hue appropriate for each section and the Master of ceremonies is at his post directing every thing "after the council of His own will."

As I listen, I hear Him say in a quiet undertone, yet plain and distinct, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." The tenor of this short speech is as if it is almost a surprise, to find brethren dwelling together in unity, but calling attention to the fact as it is witnessed. Behold, means, to look at; so we infer there is something in sight. There are brethren really dwelling together in unity. But not so surprising after all when we remember that everything is directed by the same authority. There are no collisions in the great solar system although there are millions of worlds traveling in their orbits crossing and recrossing the same lines and points. "I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods."

Fourteen years have sped rapidly by, each year developing some phase in God's economy that had been unknown hitherto. The first Assembly convinced the attendants that God approved of the venture, and preparations were made for a second. At the

second, very early in the morning of January 11, 1907, the name was accepted and since that time we have been toiling and fighting the battles of the Lord under the same name as known by the great apostle Paul—The Church of God.

New Discoveries

When Columbus discovered America in the year 1492, he did not know of the vast territory lying westward from the place of his landing. He only knew he had discovered land. It was left for future explorers to penetrate the dark and massive forests and reach the western plains and mountains with their vast resources and wealth. The reformers of a few hundred years ago did not know of the richness of Pentecost, and the beautiful government of the Church of God; but they knew they had discovered vital godliness, and God honored their message and they paved the way for what we have today. Martin Luther, with his "justification by faith," John Wesley, with his "sanctification and Christian perfection," and George Fox, with his demonstration of "power" by much "quaking and trembling," were pioneers of faith and Bible doctrine.

But the fulness of Pentecost, with its "one heart and one soul" unity, and the government, were left for other explorers of Bible doctrine. But the dark forests of unbelief and scepticism have been penetrated, so, now, it is very common for people to talk in tongues as at Pentecost, have their bodies healed by divine power when they get sick, and acknowledge government, and submit to system and order, instead of every man doing what is right in his own eyes, which was so rigidly condemned by Moses in the church in the wilderness.

During the years of special research we have discovered rich deposits of Scriptural truth. Much of this we have been able to practice. It has not been so hard to convince people of the need of experimental salvation, but it has not always been easy to get them to accept the plan, meet the conditions and get the experience. But in spite of all the oppositions and damnable heresies that are abroad in the land, thousands have plunged into the fountain of cleansing, have been saved from their sins, sanctified wholly and baptized with the Holy Ghost, evidenced by speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Government and System

Another very difficult matter, has been, to convince the people of the need of government and system. So many, have been possessed with the spirit of anarchy—lawlessness, or the theory of "individual liberty." Many have said, "I am going to do what the Lord shows me to do," whether harmonized with the spirit of others or not. They have, in many cases, disregarded the instructions of the wise man who said, "Where no counsel is, the people fall; but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." (Prov. 11:14.) A frequent expression among some classes has been, "I am under God and I will not let any man rule over me." And this, in the very face of the teaching of Scripture which says, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account." (Heb. 13:17)

But our people have made some rapid strides in the direction of government during the last few years. It is marvelous how our minds have been changed, and we have learned submission. In the minds and dispositions of some, there have been real miracles wrought. A few years ago, to submit to those in authority, seemed a terror to them, but now it is a source of pleasure. At that time when asked to do a thing they would say, "If the Lord leads," now it is, "Just whatever you say, I will do my best, by the help of the Lord." No spirit of rebellion—no self-will—no priding ourselves with being "holier than thou." Miraculous change!

By such submission and bowing to government it is not meant to ignore the leadings of the Lord. But for some years our ministers have been teaching that the Spirit and the Word always agree. They have taught us that the Holy Ghost does not lead contrary to the Holy Scriptures. We have at last got this principle instilled in our minds. Besides this, we have learned that the Scriptures teach that we should submit ourselves one to another in the fear of God. (Eph. 5:21.) The younger are learning that they are to submit to the elder (1 Pet. 5:5) whether it suits them every time or not. The Ministers are responsible for this humble submission, because they have been teaching that the Spirit and the Word agree. Now, when a spirit tries to take possession of us that wants to lead us to disregard the advice of those who are over us in the Lord, we know at once that it is not the Spirit of the Lord.

Another thing many of us have learned by experience as well as by the Word, is that, a spirit that undertakes to make us despise government and disregard it is not the Spirit of the Lord, for God is the author of government, and any one who despises government despises the author of it of course.

The principal of God's government

is illustrated in the history of the Children of Israel. We have learned this at last. We may have been slow about it, but at last we have made it our own, so we understand this fact. By studying this history to get at the principle, we have learned that it is not a government of the people for the people, as has been wisely declared of the government of the United States of America, but it is the GOVERNMENT OF GOD FOR HIS PEOPLE. It is not democratic, it is not republican, it is not a monarchy neither absolute nor limited, but it is theocratic, administered by the immediate direction of God. God said to Moses, "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." (Ex. 33:14.) Jesus said to the disciples in giving them instructions concerning the government, or work of the church, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst." (Matt. 18:20.)

Thus it is made plain that to follow strictly the Bible teachings we will adhere to government and not despise it, because it is God's government for His people, and not the people's government for themselves. For years the Spirit has been pressing us in that direction. We have been without knowledge. Many have been afraid of machinery. Many have been afraid of rule. Fearfulness has hindered the progress to an extent, but God has been patient with us and given us a chance to get rid of our superstitious notions, and theories, and LEADINGS. Many of them have gone.

Change of Minds

Some of the greatest minds have been changed. Some of our brethren in this presence to-day who have had their minds so fully settled that a certain theory of their own was Scriptural, until they thought they would never be changed, are now so different in their views that they are a wonder to themselves.

On the divorce and remarriage question that has been before the Assembly for so many years, some have changed two or three times, and no doubt many are unsettled about it yet. On the subject of selecting pastors there have been tremendous changes. The financial system that is of such vast importance has witnessed the change of many minds. Likewise many minds have been changed in regard to government and system. It is almost amusing now to call to mind some of the eloquent discourses delivered by the brethren expressive of their views on certain lines, and today if these same brethren were given a chance they would cheerfully disavow in favor of the very thing they once opposed.

But what is this? Is it fickleness? Is it a sign of weakness? No! A thousand times no! It is a sign of submission, and shows a willingness to bend rather than be staked up to a false notion or theory. It has been said, "A wise man changes often, but a fool never does." One of the greatest men that the Church of God ever produced, said of himself, "I was unknown by face unto the Churches of Judea which were in Christ; but they had heard only, that he who persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed." (Gal. 1:22,23.)

It is not bad to change, I myself, have been like the pendulum of a clock, swinging from side to side on a subject. This was because I was unsettled, but I usually tried to keep my thoughts to myself until I could quit dangling around. I wanted to be sure I was right before I settled. This is a sign that a person is not full of prejudice. He is willing to go the right way; and when he finds it he is willing to settle there although it is directly contrary to his former opinions.

Searching for Truth

More than twenty years ago some of us started out on a pilgrimage in search of the truth. As we have advanced along the way truth has gradually unfolded with the passing of years, until we have now reached the present stage. We may not yet have the whole truth opened up to our vision, but we have enough for a foundation upon which we are not afraid to stand. We know enough to know that we are upon the very same solid platform upon which the Lord's apostles stood with such undaunted courage that they could not be persuaded nor intimidated to leave it. It is a platform of principles that they could die for, but never forsake. And these same principles have some strong advocates today who can bravely give their lives, if needs be, to maintain them, but they will never give up the faith.

Heroes of Faith

We believe we have men now who are possessed with such a love for the Church and their brethren that if it should become necessary they would stand between those for whom they care, and all danger. Like Ignatius, one of the early fathers, they would, if possible, divert the blows to themselves and thus protect the others. Speaking of Ignatius it might do honor to the worthy cause we love, to make mention of his heroic act. This worthy of the early centuries was one of the most eminent of the early Christians which followed immediately after the apostles. He was bishop of the Church at Antioch in Syria. He was set apart to that high office in A. D. 75, and remained over that particular Church for 32 years. It was in the year 115, that the Emperor Trajan passed through Antioch, on his way

to conduct the operations of his army against the Parthians. It had always been the desire of Ignatius to suffer martyrdom for the sake of his Redeemer, and now fearing that the cruelty of the Emperor would be directed against the church at Antioch, he resolved to avert it by voluntarily offering himself as a victim. He therefore, went boldly into the Emperor's presence. The first words that met his pious ears were, "What an impious wretch art thou, both to transgress our commands and to inveigle other souls into the same folly, to their ruin?" Before the separation the Emperor pronounced this sentence against him: "Since Ignatius confesses that he carries within himself that which is crucified, we command that he be carried bound by soldiers to great Rome, there to be thrown to the beasts for the entertainment of the people." He reached Rome in time for the great public spectacles in the amphitheatre, and was thrown to the wild beasts in the Arena, and devoured by them.

Protected by the Government

Thus many have perished for the truth. But we have been reared in a land of Bibles, where Christianity has been favored by the nation and its officers, and we have never been called upon to suffer for the truth. We do not know what suffering is, here in this beautiful land, where we have liberty of conscience. I do not attempt to say what may be in the future, but up to the present time we have had but little trouble.

God has given us opportunity for development and preparation for the greatest event the world has ever known. It was said in the early days of Christianity that "Then had the Church's rest, throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied." (Acts 9:31.) This is what we have been doing for more than fourteen years. Indeed, we have had nothing else to do, for our government has given us protection from tormentors and the vile element, when called upon for that purpose.

We have been making good use of time, and churches have sprung up and multiplied. Our reports show that we now have churches in twenty-five states, Canada and many islands of the sea, with a fair prospect of advancing on other territory the coming year if Jesus tarries.

Going this Way

Why is it that so many people are going this way? It is very readily answered. It is because this is the Church of God and the fulfillment of prophecy. The people have been watching for this like the wise men of the East were watching for the star of Bethlehem, so as soon as it was presented they were ready to accept and walk in.

Trials overcome

The past two years have been wonderful years for the Church of God. We have met things that never have been thought of before. But God has given grace and wisdom. The central office has had its share, but I believe every local church has had to wade through the fiery darts of the enemy that have been hurled thick and fast. Some seemed to have almost suffered defeat, but in spite of the gloom and the tendency toward despair they have fought gallantly on, until in most cases there have been great victories won.

Both overseers and pastors have had their trying times. Some have felt like giving up because of perplexities arising. Misunderstandings have caused some useless anxieties. Satan has stirred up all the opposition he could, and has laid as many snares and pitfalls as the Lord would allow. Many of our young men, whom we have been looking to for future usefulness, have been called to our nations defence. Some have been taken from their charges leaving the churches to pull through the best they could. All of these things beating upon our "fair one" have had their effect, but in spite of them all she is still rising, and shining brighter, because of the storm. The years 1918 and 1919 will go down on record as hard years, but also victorious years. Most all of the old churches have been maintained and quite a good number of new ones added to the list. All this is encouraging in spite of all the gloom and sad aching hearts.

Commendation

During the past two years there have been some discoveries made that were wholly unexpected two years ago. Some of these discoveries are pleasant and some are not so pleasant. It is always a source of happiness to deal with pleasant matters. The experience of managing the work in the States by districts has been a happy one on the part of most of the overseers, and district pastors. The work of these overseers and pastors is highly commendable. I feel they deserve words of praise before this great Assembly for their untiring efforts in conserving the work and taking over new territory as well. The manner in which some of them have proven their fidelity to the Assembly, by opening the book containing the proceedings and rulings of the Assembly, and expounding them by course to the members in the district and other meetings, is deserving of the very highest commendation.

Besides extolling those in high rank for their faithful service during the two past years, I wish, also, to make

mention of the excellent service rendered by the deacons, helpers, and members. Some of the Churches have put in practice the plan authorized by the Assembly noted on page 36 and section six of the last minutes. This authorizes the classification of members with a helper to look after the interests of a class of ten or twelve members, and the deacons to watch over the helpers. This has proven very interesting and beneficial, and it only needs to be fully developed, and persistently prosecuted, to make the plan a complete success in every local church. I therefore advise that the overseers, and pastors, and deacons, look a little deeper into this system and try to put it into more successful operation the coming year. This is a matter that will require some time and patience to develop it fully, but when fully developed and put into successful operation it will be a great factor in the conservation of the local church work.

Stick to Your Job

Another thing noticeable, and that is very gratifying, is that, the pastors have "stuck to their jobs" somewhat better than in previous years. But there is room for improvement yet on the part of some. I hope this difficulty will be entirely overcome in the coming year. I think it well to emphasize this section of last years minutes by carefully reading it here: Sec. 5. "Pastors and their helpers will be expected to remain on their respective charges throughout the entire pastoral year. If any changes are made it should be under the direct supervision of the overseer of the State. No one should give up the work without giving due notice to the overseer and securing his consent and advice. Standing in the church will depend upon the observation of this advice." I do not know how many of the Ministers read this during the past two years, but it should have been read by everyone.

Financial system.

I judge it necessary to call attention briefly to the financial system. For several years we have been feeling our way along on this subject, giving it much study, and praying earnestly for God to give both light and knowledge. For years, many of our people have been practicing tithing, and giving freewill offerings besides, but during those years there was no system known. Every person placed his tithes where he felt "led of the Lord."

We have no criticism to offer, for all were doing the best they knew at that time. In many things, in those days, we were groping our way along in the dark dawn, and we might say, in the dark. It was not until at the eighth Annual Assembly, which convened at Cleveland, Tenn., Jan. 7-12, 1913, that it was decided "the Scriptural method of paying tithes was to pay them to the Church, the body of Christ, instead of the haphazard manner as practiced hitherto. Even at that time some of our leading members did not see it in that light, but they were WISE ENOUGH to submit and give it a trial.

One year's practice proved so satisfactory that at the Ninth Annual Assembly it received a warm endorsement, and the people took to it with more interest and enthusiasm than in the past. They saw it was the Scriptural order. They saw they could pay their tithes to the body of Christ that "liveth," instead of some individual, "like the priests under the law, that would 'die.'" This was made clear by the reading, and an explanation of the Seventh Chapter of Hebrews. This plan has been made so clear that outsiders have seen it clearly and they want to pay tithes to the body of Christ, and have been doing it, when they would not think of paying the Lord's money to an individual.

The above is the plan discovered for the paying of tithes, but the method of distribution was not so clear. Because of less light and knowledge about the distribution; some dissatisfaction arose. Those of you who labored with us then remember we fell upon a plan that we were willing to practice. All further light was given. We knew it was not the perfect plan, but we felt it was the best we could do at that time, and after all, it served its purpose very well.

But the time came for a change. Almost all that were specially interested in the subject believed there should be a change in the manner of distribution. But not so many were willing to say what the change should be. But when the subject was presented before the Assembly, and the plan explained, and the reason and explanation given, along with the Scriptural proof, the minds of the brethren became planted, and it was finally decided to make one special change and place the matter in charge of the Council of Elders to work out. Although there was some opposition to this for awhile, it was kept before the Assembly until the opposition so cleared away that on the last presentation there was not an opposing voice heard. And if there were opposers, they, like others in the past, were wise enough to remain quiet, and give a chance for a trial of the new order.

It is well to state here that the Council has not yet fully worked out the system and put it in practice, but I feel it my duty to state that they are still working on it, and if time can be given, and they can have the hearty co-operation of all the officials and members, I feel sure the question will be fully answered and the problem solved. I wish here to heartily com-

mend all the churches and Ministers that have willingly furnished the required information. But one thing has hindered, and has caused delay in perfecting the plan, and that is, some have appeared to be slothful in business, directly contrary to Paul's advice given at Rom. 12:11. And while there was perhaps no intention on their part to delay the working out of the plan, yet it had its effect more than might be believed by those not directly interested.

Ministers pay Tithes.

Before leaving this subject I wish to answer one objection to the principle under which we have been working the last two years. It has been said that under the present system, although it is in its crude form yet, the ministers are deprived of paying their own tithes. In reply to this objection I wish to call attention to instructions given in one or two of our previous Assemblies. It has generally been conceded by all our Bible students, that the Levites under the Law represent our ministers now. This tribe was to have no inheritance by which to make an increase upon which to pay tithes. But the other tribes were to bring their tithes into the storehouse or treasury, and the first thing done by those over the treasury was to take out tithes of these tithes, and this "heave offering," the tithes of the tithes, was to be given to the high priest. After this was done the remaining nine tenths were to be distributed to the brethren. But no distribution was to be made until after the "heave-offering" was taken out and given to the high priest. This conclusion is reached by a close study of the law given at first, and in the restoration under Nehemiah. Under this system the Levites paid tithes, but they did it through those who were over the treasures. This is under the same principle that you have often heard about building a house. John Jones built a house, yet he himself did not lift a piece of timber nor drive a nail, but he employed a carpenter that did the work. He probably never saw any of the work done.

Under the system practiced the past two years every minister has paid tithes. This will be shown by the reports later on in the Assembly. Why do I say this? Because the tithes belong to the ministers. I have heard this statement made by a number of the speakers in the past Assemblies. I say it now, I only repeat what has been said before. If any of the ministers have failed to receive their proportion of the nine-tenths, it has been caused by a failure somewhere in hearty co-operation. Those over the treasures cannot attend to the work perfectly when there is not a response and co-operation on the part of others. And the Council cannot regulate the system perfectly while some who are over the treasures refuse to co-operate with them. Our records at the office show those who have failed as well as those who have been faithful.

Equal Distribution.

Only give the Council a chance, and let them have the hearty co-operation of all the churches, and all the members, and all the ministers, and I'll venture to say that within a reasonable time it can truly be said of the ministers "As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over and he that had gathered little had no lack." Why? Because, as it is written again, "But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality." And again as it is written, "When I sent you**** lacked ye anything?" and they said, "Nothing." Why? "For the workman is worthy of his meat," said Jesus, and Paul says, "The laborer is worthy of his reward," and also, "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."

In some places the minister will have great expense and thus he will require an abundance, but with all this there will be nothing over. In another place the minister may not require so much, but there will be no lack. And if they are to live of the gospel, they will not be compelled to retire from their ministry and get employment of some kind to make something to take them through the winter and send their children to school.

Church and Government.

Much teaching has been given in the past concerning the Church and her beautiful government, and our people are becoming fairly well informed on the subject, but it is often good to be reminded of things we already know, and besides this, there are always new people coming in that need to be taught. This subject must have some attention given it during this Assembly. The minds of almost every body have been poisoned more or less by that old theory that people are "Born into the Church," and that every converted person is a member. It is necessary to take the Scriptures and blow that deceptive theory away quite often lest our people become entangled in it as they mix and mingle with people that believe that way. We have provided for a special discourse to be delivered by J. S. Llewellyn that is intended to give such instructions that are needful at the present time. I am sure he will be able to

(Continued on page two)

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GENERAL OVERSEERS ADDRESS

(Continued from page one)

throw such a picture of the Church
 upon the canvas, by the use of
 Scripture and logic, that will remove
 the veil so it will be seen plainly
 that the Church of God is truly a
 distinct body that people are added
 to instead of born into.

Speaking evil.

Many people to-day, as well as in all
 ages speak evil of things they know
 not. One of the writers of the Bible
 tells of a class of people that made
 their appearance in Bible times that
 were less careful about what they
 said about people than Michael the
 arch-angel was about Satan when he
 was engaged in a controversy with
 him over the body of Moses. This
 same kind of people are on the
 scene to-day, and must have some-
 thing said to them by way of warn-
 ing and instruction. We are told that
 they "speak evil of things they do
 not know; but what they know natu-
 rally, as brute beasts, in those things
 they corrupt themselves." And ac-
 cording to the Word of God they are
 on their way to destruction. Now, if
 we cannot save them, which may be
 very doubtful, we want to warn those
 who are not of that class against the
 use of their words or participating in
 their ways lest they become spider-
 webbed until they will never get
 loose again. This subject must have
 some attention, because of the evil
 day and perilous time in which we
 are living, and we want to put up a
 light-house on every rock and shoal
 where there is sure to be a wreck if
 the mariners on the sea of life pass
 that way. There is danger now as well
 as in Moses' time. There is danger
 now as well as in the days of the
 apostles. And sometimes we think there
 may be even more danger because we
 are entering the time when the very
 best people will be deceived and de-
 ceived away from the right if it is
 possible. We therefore conclude a dis-
 course on this subject at this Assem-
 bly will be very necessary, and in
 order, for the best interests of the
 Church, and every one concerned.

Knowledge.

There are no people on earth that
 are any more anxious and determined
 to be faithful to the cause they have
 espoused than the members of the
 great Church of God. They have all
 taken upon themselves a sacred obli-
 gation. It is their intention to be true
 to that obligation. If they are not
 true in some cases it may be because
 of a lack of knowledge. They may not
 know just what they should do under
 the then present circumstances. But
 God, by the mouth of the prophet
 Hosea, has said, "My people are de-
 stroyed for lack of knowledge." We
 must do our best to prevent such de-
 struction. Therefore, our people must
 be informed. They must become
 thoroughly acquainted with the doc-
 trine, and everything else necessary
 for their preservation. Those who are
 capable of teaching and instructing
 will be held accountable before God
 if they should fail to do their duty in
 this respect. No sacrifice or money
 must be spared, and it will take a
 united effort on our part to accomplish
 this end. As a means to assist in this
 respect we have provided in the pro-
 gram for a discourse by F. J. Lee in-
 tended to reach a little farther than
 we have hitherto penetrated. Oh, that
 God may remove the veil and give us
 a better view of what it means to be
 possessed with fidelity and fealty. I do
 not know of any time in the his-
 tory of the world, when it has been
 any more necessary for true fidelity
 to prevail than now. It is truly neces-
 sary now, because of certain prevail-
 ing influences, for God's people to get
 together, and remain together, and en-
 joy the existence of an extremely
 close fellowship. No time for crosses,
 No time for the least tinge of ill-

feelings between brother and brother,
 sister and sister, or brother and sis-
 ter to exist. Loyalty to the Church and
 her great principles will be a sure
 preventive of all such hindrances and
 embarrassments.

The Colored People.

Every subject on the program is of
 the utmost importance. But it is not
 expedient for me to call attention to
 every one separately, however I feel it
 my duty to mention one more. We have
 deviated from our former practice by
 giving a place on the program for our
 colored brethren. We have recog-
 nized them, and loved and fellow-
 shipped them as brothers and sisters
 and members, and given them oppor-
 tunity for extemporaneous utterances,
 but this is the first time they have
 been given a representation on the
 program. We feel they are due this
 recognition. They are truly our breth-
 ren. From the mouth of the great
 apostle Paul came the sacred utterance
 that God "hath made of one blood
 all nations of men for to dwell
 on all the face of the earth, and hath
 determined the times before appoint-
 ed, and the bounds of their habitation;
 that they should seek the Lord, if
 heply they might feel after him, and
 find him, though he be not far from
 every one of us: for in him we live,
 and move, and have our being." Our
 dark skinned brothers and sisters
 have received the Holy Ghost as well
 as we, and we have long ago learned
 "that God is no respecter of persons."
 In certain places, and in some states
 of the United States, it is more ex-
 pedient for them to have their own
 churches and schools separate, but
 when it comes to religion there is no
 difference, and we feel it is right for
 him to be recognized in the Assem-
 bly.

System of Government.

After years of prayer, and study,
 and research, we have learned that
 God's Bible teaches a system of gov-
 ernment. We have learned that it is
 not His plan for His people to be with-
 out government. He is strongly opposed
 to anarchy. This was demonstrated in
 the Church in the wilderness when
 "kings at different times were slain by
 His wrath." It has been explained by
 the writers of the New Testament
 Scriptures. Paul and Peter and Jude
 all clearly show that God is not pleas-
 ed with people that despise or reject
 government. He is not pleased with
 those who refuse to yield to those in
 authority. He regards every office as
 being very sacred, and designs that
 the proper dignity of each position be
 maintained. So there is a degree of
 sacredness thrown around every posi-
 tion of trust.

In the last few years we have made
 rapid strides in the direction of per-
 fection. We do not claim to have
 fully reached the perfect standard, but
 it is evident that we are bordering on
 to the standard very closely. The
 important thing relative to this matter
 now is to put in practice what has
 been discovered and provided for by
 the Assembly. It took several times
 going around the wall of Jericho to get
 all the doubts, and fears, and self-
 will, out of Joshua's host so they
 could all shout together and all go
 straight up before them and obey the
 command without knowing the reason
 for it. But finally it was accomplished
 and Jericho was taken. It takes some
 time for us to get rid of our old tra-
 ditional ideas and forms. A few of us
 have been so steeped in democratic
 or republican rule that it is not easy to
 whip ourselves around to theocratic
 and submit wholly to this form.

But it is certainly true that we are
 now nearer the place in government
 that we can give ourselves more to
 loving after the spiritual interests
 of the Church, and the evangelistic
 work. The problem of government
 has been largely solved. The principle
 is laid out until we only have to apply
 ourselves to it and do the other work.
 Our part on this line now is LOYAL-
 TY, while we take care of all the in-
 terests where the Church has been
 established, and push on into new
 territory and bombard Satan's strong-
 holds with bombs of Bible truth, rout
 him from his positions and capture
 the men and women for Jesus and His
 Church.

Some Hindrances

With an humble submission on our
 part, and a zealous willingness to
 work where we are placed, what can
 be accomplished in another year can
 hardly be imagined now. There have
 been some disadvantages to over-
 come the past two years that I trust
 will not show up hereafter. A part
 of the system being new we have found
 ourselves somewhat awkward and
 have probably made some slight blun-
 ders, so there is room for improve-
 ment. The report forms are to be
 developed. The keeping of records is
 to be improved. The financial system
 is to be worked out more fully, so that
 our ministers can be provided for
 and kept on the field. I feel safe in
 saying that all these matters of gov-
 ernment will have due attention, and
 an effort will be made to bring every
 department up to the standard.

The Ministry.

Experience of past years teaches us
 that it will be necessary to become
 more strict in our examinations for
 the ministry. We have been patient,
 and have borne with what seems to
 have been carelessness on the part of
 many in filling out their examination
 certificates. Hereafter such apparent
 carelessness will be taken into con-
 sideration in making examinations,
 and when questions are not answered,
 or not answered correctly, each point
 will count to disqualify the applicant
 for the ministry. We have made the
 examinations comparatively easy, but
 past experience teaches us that it will
 be necessary to make them a little
 closer. Besides answering the 99
 questions there are reasons which de-
 mand a closer and more careful ex-
 amination and drilling in doctrine.
 There must be some better way to
 know when applicants are qualified
 for the ministry. This will be deter-
 mined, however, by the examining
 council and is not necessarily a mat-
 ter for consideration in the Assembly.
 It only being necessary to place
 the subject before the Assembly as a
 matter of information.

Unity broken

In apostolic days it was common

for unity and harmony to prevail.
 There were occasionally some slight
 differences, but there was no real
 break until at the Nicene Council
 which convened in the year 325. But
 when the break came it was an open-
 ing wedge for still greater and more
 plentiful divisions. Then followed the
 introduction of creeds which have
 been the means of separating the
 very closest of friends. From that day
 until this the visage of the Christian
 religion has been marred. She has
 ever carried the wound made by that
 historic Assembly. The wound has
 never fully healed. The Lord's people
 are still separated. But we have now
 reached the time of ingathering, when
 the sheep that have been scattered
 and wandering upon hill and moun-
 tain, are coming to the one fold in the
 top of the mountain of God's holiness.
 Thousands have said good by to
 creeds that caused heartaches and di-
 vision and have taken up the blessed
 old Bible and pressed it to their bos-
 oms and exclaimed, By this I will be
 guided, to this I will submit no matter
 what the sacrifice—no matter what
 the cost to this sacred volume will I
 cling and dwell with those that wholly
 follow its precepts. And this always
 means that such honest sincere chil-
 dren of God will involuntarily come
 closer and closer together until they
 clasp glad hands in the great Church
 of God.

Coming Together

When it is discovered that two per-
 sons agree why should they remain
 separated? When it is discovered
 that two bodies of religious believers
 agree in doctrine, and principles of
 government, and are possessed with
 that greatest of heavenly virtues—
 love, what reason is there for remain-
 ing separate? Why not let the kisses
 of love kiss all the division away and
 embrace each other and say with the
 sainted Ruth of old, "Intreat me not to
 leave thee or to return from following
 after thee: for whither thou goest, I
 will go; and where thou lodgest, I will
 lodge; thy people shall be my people,
 and thy God my God: where thou diest,
 will I die, and there will I be buried:
 the Lord do so to me, and more also,
 if I ought but death part thee and me."
 "So they two went until they came to Bethlehem." And be-
 loved let me assure you, that a trip
 together to Bethlehem, where the shep-
 herds and wise men found the blessed
 and ever to be adored Messiah, is
 a sure cure for divisions.

Pardon me for this comparison, but
 I wonder if the Assembly of the
 Church of God, and others who may be
 in this presence will not reach Bethle-
 hem today. I wonder if they together
 will not bend over the Babe in the
 manger and mingle their tears of joy
 together as they remember He is one
 common Savior to us all. I wonder if
 this could not be "the beginning of
 barley harvest." I wonder if the in-
 habitants of glory will not say, Is this
 Naomi, and Ruth her daughter-in-law
 with her?

I cannot tell what next shall be,
 Yet, Lord, content I lay
 Within thy ever-blessed arms;
 Not knowing which way they
 Nor asking, since thou'g' vest me
 To know, Thy love is leading me.
 Love leading—shall I question where?
 Nay, Lord, I shut my eyes,
 And place my hand within thine own,
 To ope' with glad surprise,
 To find where'er my lodgings be,
 The Savior, God, abides with me.

Orphanage

I was startled not long since when
 the news reached my ears that a cer-
 tain mother, who had embarked for
 the other shore, requested before she
 left, that her orphan children be sent
 to a certain orphan's home for care
 and training. My bosom heaved with
 emotion as I suddenly remembered
 that the Church of God had no insti-
 tution where orphans can be safely
 housed and trained in its doctrine and
 practice. And as I reflected it became
 a matter of deep concern just to know
 that our own precious sister in the
 Church of God was forced to make a
 request like that, when, if we only had
 a place provided, of course she would
 have been happy to say, "I want my
 children taken to the home for or-
 phans where they will be trained up to
 love the Church of God."

To need to say much about this
 subject as our people are not flush
 with means, and are probably not able
 to undertake such a project, but the
 need of such an institution is staring
 us in the face and should begin to
 claim our attention. Surely it will not
 be long until God will touch some
 body's heart who has the money, and
 lead them to supply this much needed
 institution. The little that has been
 done in this direction has been quite
 a burden, but surely when the time is
 ripe, and God is leading, the burden
 will disappear and it will be a pleasure
 for the Church as a whole to
 launch the institution and operate it in
 a manner that will be successful.

It is truly heart rending to think of
 little children and babies, whose par-
 ents have loved and served the church
 faithfully, having to be left in this
 cold world without father, without
 mother, and thrust out among stran-
 gers for care and training, all because
 the Church of God has no institution
 where they can be taken. We ought
 to be able to care for our own, and
 instead of having our own dear chil-
 dren placed in institutions where they
 will be trained contrary to the Church
 of God, we should be able to reach out
 a tender hand of love and mercy, and
 take in others and train them for God
 and His beautiful Church. We want
 to prove to men and angels that we
 have sympathetic hearts and have the
 same Spirit of our great Head who
 said, "Suffer little children to come
 unto me, and, forbid them not:
 for of such is the kingdom of God."

Listen:—
 Two little children, a girl and a boy,
 Sat at the old Church door.
 The little girl's feet were as brown as
 a curl,
 That fell on the dress that she wore.
 The boy's coat was faded, and hatless
 his head,
 And a tear stood in each eye,
 "Why don't you run home to your

mamma?" I said,
 And this was the maiden's reply.

"My mamma's in heaven, they took
 her away."
 Left Jim and I alone;
 We came here to stay at the close of
 day.
 For we have no mamma, no home,
 We can't earn our bread, we're too lit-
 tle," she said,
 "Jim's five years, and I only seven,
 There is no one to love us since papa
 is dead,
 And darling mamma's in heaven."

"Papa was lost on the sea, long ago:
 We've waited all night on the shore,
 For he was a life-saving captain, you
 know,
 And he never came back any more.
 Then mama got sick, and the angels
 took her
 To a home that is warm and bright;
 They'll come for my darling; she told
 us; some day;
 Perhaps they are coming to-night."

"Maybe tonight they will have room
 there," she said,
 "Two little ones to keep."
 Then placing her arm under little
 Jim's neck,
 She kissed him and both fell asleep.
 The sexton came early to ring the
 Church bell,
 He found them beneath the snow
 white:
 The angels made room for the orphans
 to dwell

In heaven that night.
 The great Church of God, the body of
 Christ,
 Will surely not fail to do right.
 Then up to the rescue, with money
 and bread,
 And shelter prepare for the night.
 Make room for the orphans and train
 them for God,
 Protect them from cold and the
 wrong,
 If Jesus should tarry they'll help to
 unfold
 The gospel in word and in song.

Heresy

It has been said that the time to
 prepare for war is in the time of peace.
 It has also been said that an ounce
 of preventive is worth more than a
 pound of cure. If we are not fully pre-
 pared to wage a victorious warfare
 against heresy it is fully time for us
 to make the necessary preparations.
 And definite steps should be taken to
 prevent heresy from springing up a-
 mong us. The early fathers spent
 much time in refuting the arguments
 of heretics. They knew that heresy
 would lead to disruption and cause
 division sooner or later. The farther
 they got from the apostles by the
 passing of time the more heresy in-
 creased.

While this vile enemy is running
 rampant in the land, doing his deadly
 work, we have had but little trouble
 with it in the Church. Making a mis-
 take in dividing Scripture is not heresy
 when it is merely because of a lack of
 knowledge. Unintentional teaching
 that is contrary to sound doctrine is
 not necessarily heresy. But we very
 much desire that all of our teachers
 hold steadfastly to the Apostles' doc-
 trine, and teach that which they know
 the Church stands for rather than
 venture into something that will be
 detrimental to the cause we love.
 Heresy is an opinion or doctrine at
 variance with fundamental truths
 solemnly received by the Church as
 authentic, especially if leading to divi-
 sion. It is the division we must pre-
 vent. Individuals may get up some
 heretical notions and have to be ex-
 cluded, but there must be no divisions.
 We are too near the end when the Lord
 will come for us to tolerate or even
 expect divisions. Nay, we are gather-
 ing together instead of dividing. But
 we must be on our guard, and not al-
 low any one to creep in and remain
 that will cause any trouble of this
 kind. There is more danger now than
 there was a few years ago. When a
 heretic is found it is our duty to deal
 with him according to instructions
 given by Paul—after the first and
 second admonition reject him.

Sedition

It hardly seems necessary to men-
 tion sedition, that Paul designates as
 a work of the flesh, but it is so close-
 ly connected with heresy that I judge
 it necessary to give it some attention.
 The word defined means simply "the
 stirring up of opposition to lawful
 authority." To make it fuller we might
 say it is "a going aside," or any con-
 duct tending toward rebellion. Exe-
 cution of discontent against the govern-
 ment, or of resistance to lawful
 authority. In the Church of God it
 would mean for one or more of the
 members to oppose the accepted teach-
 ing of the Church and ruling of the
 Assembly, and use their influence in
 stirring up opposition thereto, which
 would have a tendency to cause divi-
 sion.

We may not be expecting any of our
 members to become guilty of such a
 crime, but men creep in in olden
 times that caused such trouble, and
 they may try to slip in on us in the
 same way. It is our purpose to be on
 the watch tower, and ready to meet
 any sedition that may make his ap-
 pearance. In giving instructions rela-
 tive to this subject Paul says, "Now
 I beseech you, brethren, mark them
 which cause divisions and offences con-
 trary to the doctrine which ye have
 learned; and avoid them. (Turn away
 from them R.V.) For they that are such
 serve not our Lord Jesus Christ; but
 by good words and fair speeches
 deceive the hearts of the simple." The
 next verse shows that perfect obedi-
 ence is required. A seditious person,
 then, is to be avoided, because he is
 dangerous to good government, and a
 hindrance to the blessed work of
 Christ, and does not serve Him in
 truth.

The spirit of the Master is described
 in the beautiful language of Paul where
 he says, "Now I beseech you, brethren,
 by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 that ye all speak the same thing,
 and that there be no division among you;
 but that ye be perfectly joined to-
 gether in the same mind and in the
 same judgment." And truly, His body,
 the Church, must be possessed with
 the same spirit—unity; no division; no

heresy; no sedition. And the members
 cannot afford to even engage in any
 seditious conversation.

Not Representative.
 This Assembly is not what is called a
 "representative body." It never has
 been a representative body and per-
 haps it never will be a representative
 body. To make a representative body
 would make it more like a repub-
 lic than a theocracy. I do not
 know of any Scripture, either pre-
 cept or example, to prove that
 it should be a representative body.
 If there is, I am willing to learn,
 but I have failed to find it. To
 make it a representative body would
 have a tendency to create factions.
 For instance, in explanation of my
 meaning: Suppose each church should
 have the right to send a representa-
 tive. Then suppose each church should
 instruct their delegates to support
 certain measures they want adopted.
 Take it by states or districts and the
 same principle would prevail. Repre-
 sentatives would scarcely ever be
 free in the spirit to work for the good
 of the Church as a whole, because
 they would feel under obligations to
 support the claims and desires of their
 state, district or Church. The next
 thing to follow would be conventions
 held prior to the Assembly, to elect
 their representatives; and the meas-
 ures would be adopted and the repre-
 sentatives instructed accordingly. To
 follow this method would give a
 splendid opportunity to exercise self-
 ishness, and there would be a tempta-
 tion at least to want measures ad-
 opted to best suit that particular state
 or district with a disregard to the best
 interests of other states and places,
 and the general good of the Church.

The Church of God is not a Church
 by countries, or by states, or districts.
 It is the Church everywhere. In the
 early centuries it became a common
 thing for the church to be mentioned
 as the eastern and western churches.
 And instead of all holding to Jerusa-
 lem as headquarters, their work was
 divided up until there was a Jerusa-
 lem headquarters, and a western
 headquarters, and later other Jerusa-
 lems were established. But we must
 not pattern after them. Our pattern
 is the very beginning of the Church
 during the lifetime of the Apostles.
 The Assembly at Jerusalem. This As-
 sembly was composed of the Apostles,
 and elders, and the whole
 Church. And instead of sending cho-
 sen men from the different churches or
 countries, as representatives to this
 Assembly, the Assembly sent chosen
 men out from that body to deliver the
 decrees, or carry the information to
 all the local churches. The represen-
 tatives went the other direction. We
 cannot afford to turn around and
 work contrary to the practice of the
 Apostles and early Church.

The Council

When the Assembly authorized the
 appointment of twelve Bishops three
 years ago for counsellors for the Gen-
 eral Overseer there was nothing said
 about this body being a representative
 body. It was only meant to pattern af-
 ter the practice of the early Church
 and for a strength and stay for the
 General Overseer. When they were
 elected there was no thought of coun-
 try or territory. It was meant to se-
 lect men that had the General interest
 of the Church at heart with whom the
 General Overseer can counsel. The
 General Overseer has no preference
 concerning territory. He is as much
 interested in the churches located in
 the Bahama Islands as those of Texas;
 he is as much interested in those in
 North Carolina as in those of Ohio;
 he is as much interested in those in
 Florida as those of Tennessee. There
 is no difference. The Church is one
 everywhere. The counsellors were se-
 lected with the same principle in view
 if there is one member in that coun-
 cil that does not conform to that
 principle I want him dismissed. The
 one who happens to have his home in
 Illinois is not in the Council to repre-
 sent his particular state. The one
 who resides in Louisiana is not expect-
 ed to be any more interested in for-
 warding the work in his state than in
 Maryland. The one who hales from
 Georgia is not expected to give con-
 sideration specially suited to the desires
 of the people of Georgia any more than
 any other state. These counsellors are
 not to be narrow like that. They are
 to be broad and world wide. Overseers
 of states and districts are to work
 with all their might for the upbuild-
 ing of the Church in their respective
 fields of labor, but not so with the
 General Overseer and his counsellors,
 only as the wide-world is considered
 their field. These counsellors are not
 expected to show favors to any terri-
 tory and neglect other territory. I re-
 peat that they are not representatives
 of any territory, but they are counsellors
 to the General Overseer. Not one
 of them would dare try to influence
 the General Overseer to show partiality
 anywhere. These men are to be
 able and broad minded to cope to such
 a program. They know the Church is
 the Church everywhere and all busi-
 ness is to be done without partiality.
 Love for God and His Church is the
 slogan, and this means to serve
 faithfully without partiality.

The Counsellors, as a council, are not
 expected to frame and present meas-
 ures to be adopted at the Assembly
 independent of the General Overseer,
 but in council there may be measures
 framed for presentation to the Assem-
 bly and through the General Overseer.
 It should be emphasized that these
 counsellors are not a body to
 themselves to represent the people,
 but they are selected for counsellors
 and assistants to the General Overseer
 after a similar order that the presi-
 dent's cabinet composed of eight men
 are counsellors to the president of the
 United States.

Almost, if not all governments, from
 Israel under Moses down to the pres-
 ent time have provided for counsellors
 to their chief executives. Different
 governments have different numbers.
 Moses was ordered by God Himself to
 select seventy. Jesus selected twelve
 to be with Him. The number that
 composed the council that assisted
 James in the early Church is unknown.
 Here is where we are slightly per-
 plexed, but we are sure of the council
 and have selected twelve. It is evident
 that Peter and John were members of
 the council as well as Apostles, but it

is not clear that any of the other
 twelve Apostles were members. James,
 the Lord's brother, was not a member
 of the council, neither was he an
 Apostle, one of the twelve, but he
 was the chief executive until the day
 of his death. This statement is verified
 by sketches of history outside the
 Bible and there are Scriptural pas-
 sages that indicate the same view.

An Epistle from St. Clement ad-
 dressed to James has been preserved to
 us. St. Clement begins his letter
 thus "Clement to James, the Lord's
 brother and the bishop of bishops, who
 rules Jerusalem, the holy Church of
 the Hebrews, and the Churches ev-
 erywhere excellently founded by the
 providence of God, with the elders and
 deacons, and the rest of the brethren,
 peace be always." This is that James
 around whom clustered the elders
 whom we call counsellors.

Purpose

Our purpose now is the same that
 it has been in all previous Assemblies.
 We have always claimed that the As-
 sembly is not a legislative body, but
 a body for the purpose of searching out
 and preparing for practice the
 laws already made. To say we have
 been successful is only a mild way of
 expression. The hundreds of churches
 established in many places and in suc-
 cessful operation, and the thousands
 of happy members rejoicing in a Sav-
 ior's love, is the answer. There may
 be other laws and deeper depths to
 discover and explore, but we have
 promised to walk in the light, and as
 the light shines on ahead we will go.

The light is come and shining bright,
 We're strong in the Lord and the pow-
 er of His might.
 We are waiting here for that wonder-
 ful sight.
 By and by we will go where there is no
 night.

"Hast

or suffer the consequences. The Church shall not be a cloak to hide such evil practices. If men do not know how to behave themselves and keep in their proper places in their relation to women they are not worthy of membership. If women do not know how to preserve their chastity and honor, and will not do it, they are not worthy of membership. I admit that the woman is the "weaker vessel" and this is all the more reason that the men should exercise enough manhood to both ennoble their own lives and the lives of the women they should protect instead of ruin.

The Church must be a place for protection. The innocent and weaker ones must be protected. We are in the last days, the very time when lust and greed are running rampant, but the Church members shall not be partakers of the nature of the world. They must be pure and holy, and reverence God and love one another with a pure and holy love. There must be a unity of spirit and oneness of purpose, and the shame must be cleared away by a bolder stand for the right. We must be so pure and spotless that one of these days we may hear our Bridegroom say, "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away." And by His grace we will!

Another matter that should claim our attention at the Assembly is the arrangement for the time and place to hold the Assembly in the future. The first one was held in a little cottage home in N. C., and our good Sister Tilly cooked and served the entire Assembly. The second was held at Union Grove, about ten miles out from Cleveland, then it was moved to Cleveland where it was held from year to year until it was decided our quarters would have to be enlarged, and a committee was appointed to locate and prepare a place. After making investigations and giving the matter careful consideration they purchased the building at Harriman, Tenn., which was used for two successive years very satisfactory. But the time has come now for another change. It will be necessary for us to make some disposition of the matter at this Assembly.

It has been believed by some that it would be good to move the Assembly from City to City as a means of spreading the influence and teaching more rapidly. But we do not have the assurance of getting an auditorium at places and times we would want. Joseph and Mary could not find room "in the inn" and Jesus was born in a stable instead of a palace.

It is almost useless for us to try to have the Assembly in the central parts of any city. We had just as well prepare for meeting out where we will not disturb people by our shouts, music and hallelujahs. John the Baptist preached out in the wilderness and attracted the crowds to him. The people left their palatial homes and business centers and went out where the great preacher demonstrated the truth he preached. There was room for him outside the city.

Taking everything into consideration we believe the time has come for us to select a place out on some street car line about Chattanooga or some other place and begin to prepare a place for national and world-wide camp meetings and not only have the Assembly there once a year, but have two camp meetings a year besides. We had just as well prepare for "big things" for they are pushing themselves upon us.

Our expenses have been great, but it is not a matter of expense any more, it is getting the work done. The world must be evangelized. The Church must be extended and the souls already saved must be fed so they can grow, and prepare for the coming of the Lord. Many of our members are isolated and cannot attend the regular weekly meetings, they need a place to go to two or three times a year where they can gather for ten days or more to get their souls refreshed and strengthened. Great meetings of this nature have always proved to be great blessings. It was at the time of a great gathering together of the Jews when the Holy Ghost fell so wonderfully and swept in probably near ten thousand souls as they met together day after day. In those days it was said that the multitudes were of one heart and one soul. It was at that time the Church flourished so wonderfully. We expect for it to flourish in the last days as much or more.

We must not be afraid to spend our money for the sake of the extension of the gospel. It has to go and we must take it. The work has to be done and we must do it. The fellowship must be strengthened and we must encourage it. One heart and one soul must prevail. The Bible prophecies must be fulfilled. And we must get a little closer together in spirit and faith for our mutual benefit. We must get so fastened together during this Assembly that nothing can pull us apart for another year. Our hearts and lives must be blended. Our interests must remain the same. Knit together in love is the Bible expression. And we surely are that way now, perhaps more than we know. God seems to be breathing His love upon us for the moment. He is preparing us for the coming of our Bridegroom. We can say with the wise man in his songs, "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine. Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth: therefore do the virgins love thee." And it has been said that nobody loves like the people that attend the great Assemblies of the Church of God. We will surely convince the world if we keep this up a few more years for Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Let us do it. Yea, we will do it! And love God supremely.

FOXES' BOOK OF MARTYRS

The title describes the contents of the book. This book contains information that, if read, will no doubt be a blessing to our people at this time. Single copy, post paid \$1.25. Order of EVANGEL OFFICE

Self-delusion, Jas. 1:22.

J. Leon Thornhill.

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." The language of this text is found in St. James' writing to the twelve tribes which are of the dispersion, and the commission to them is applicable to us today. We are living in the same dispensation—The Holy Ghost dispensation or the dispensation of grace. We must remember that we are descendants of the twelve tribes and the epistle of St. James was written for our learning.

Oh, the essence of the text, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only," "deceiving" your own selves." Webster says delude means to cheat; mislead; deceived etc. This being true friends, look out over the harvest field and see the teaming millions that are deluded, deceived, and living a life of debauchery, deceiving themselves, professing to know God but in works are denying Him.

Be not deceived—He is here talking to the saints of God, not to the world (sinners) for they are already deceived. "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." (Jas. 1:19, 20.) Some one said, "I know God's Word teaches regeneration, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues but if I had it now I might lose out so I will stay in the bounds of regeneration until I know that I can live it. I am alright as I am regenerated." Brother, you are very badly deceived. "Wherefore lay apart all (not part) filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." (Jas. 1:21.) David said the Word of God is right, converting the soul. Again he said, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Another person said, "I know I'm not deceived but I can't help but say something about some one for she treated me very cool last night. She said I did not have the Holy Ghost and that I was only putting on. She greeted everyone of the sisters except me and I don't like it. I shall treat her the same way at the next meeting." What does James say about such a person? "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." (Jas. 1:26.) I don't want a vain religion, do you? I don't think you do. If you do and have any at all, you are badly deceived.

Did you know that there are thousands of God's dear children being deluded, corrupted and deceived through pride? "Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised. The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, who shall bring me down to the ground? Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord. (Oba. 2-4.) Pride and worldly conformity are very, very dangerous to any Christian character, and I can see it creeping over some people now.

Brethren, Sisters, beware lest you be deceived. We are to be a separate people. We must not be like the creeds round about. Go clean, neat and nice but let us not worship ourselves lest we deceive ourselves and lose our crown. Let us walk in the light and keep our eyes open for the spirits of deception are surely

lurking around the mount of God's holiness. The devil knows there is safety there for God's children. "But upon Mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions." (Oba. 5.)

Let us receive the baptism of oneness spoken of in the 4th chapter of Ephesians. It places us into the family of the bride. This baptism is received after the baptism of the Holy Ghost. This baptism of oneness is very greatly to be desired. Since it places us in the ranks of the bride, let us seek harder to know God's will and to stay free from the spirit of Babylon—confusion.

Friends, the five wise virgins (Matt. 25) will only be able to get in with the bride, but will not be one of the bride. They will get in because they have oil in their vessels. The foolish virgins will not get in with the others, yet they were in standing and fellowship with those who did get in. The wise virgins were fortunate enough to get in with the bride. They were members of the church but were not of the bride. This is a deep thought and commands much of our study and consideration. Look at the bride in her beautiful array. "My dove (dove denotes purity), my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her." (Cant. 6:9.) While the bride is in such a state of purity, look at the Church of God at Corinth with members in it who were not even sanctified. Of course these were to press on to a higher standard. Also look at those in the churches of Galatia who had fallen from grace. See the wise virgins, her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee. With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace. (Psa. 45:14, 15.)

The whole church is being called into deeper depths of His love and grace. Listen to God's solemn warning or entreaty, "Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house. (Psa. 45:10.) Here is another little glimpse of the bride. Notice that she was commanded to hearken, consider, incline her ear and to forget her own people. Do you get the lesson? A complete separation from the world to keep out deception. As I write these words I can feel a peculiar sacredness creeping over me. I fancy I hear the warning bells of eternity tolling, echoing to delve deeper, delve deeper.

Many are deceived and cheating themselves out of many blessings. Self-delusion is exhibited in men and women thinking their ways are right. (Prov. 14:12.) Also in thinking they are pure and fit subjects for heaven without salvation. (Prov. 30:12.) Men are deceived in walking after the imaginations of their own hearts. (Deut. 29:19.) Dear friends, in Jesus' name, let us not be deceived for we are too near the coming of the Lord. Read these Scriptures: Matt. 16:18-20; Acts 5:13; 9:26; 3 John 9-11; 1 Cor. 3:1-4; 5:13; Jude 4; John 10:16; 11:52; Isa. 9:6, 7; Gal. 2:4; Deut. 1:13. These Scriptures will plainly tell you how you get into the church and how you get out of it. All Christians are not members of the Church of God. If you believe that, you are deluded. That is the wrong doctrine or law, and you had better begin to look in to St. James' law or the perfect law of liberty. Continue therein, be not a hearer that forgetteth but a doer that worketh. Then you shall be blessed in your doings.

Thank God for that spirit of matation and advice on missionary

soul. Bless the name of the Lord. Let us obey the text, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your selves." If God says to trust Him with our bodies, let us trust Him; look to Him for healing. If we resort to something else and say we are ready to meet God, we are deluded. "Let God be true, but every man a liar." (Rom. 3:4.) If God said for us to give Him one tenth of our income and we fail to do it, and claim to have full salvation, we are deluded. Let us walk in the light. Let us stand for the Church of God. Amen.

The Assembly.

The Fourteenth Annual Assembly of the Church of God has just closed with great blessings and victory. It is the most wonderful of all the previous Assemblies.

The power and glory of the Lord rested upon the first service and kept increasing until the last. The wonderful manifestations of God's presence and power can never be described by tongue or pen. The heavens were ringing with shouts and praises, and the sweet holy presence of the Lord filled the atmosphere until it seemed we were in very close touch with the heavenly world.

When the vast audience lifted their voices together in prayer it was as the sound of the rushing of many waters and as they would stand with uplifted hands shouting the praises of the Lord it would remind one of the shouting when the Children of Israel marched around the walls of Jericho and blew the trumpets and shouted that great shout of victory that brought those high massive walls of that great city to the ground. To look out over that large audience with faces shining with the glory of the Lord and feel the sweet fellowship and unity that prevailed was indeed a real foretaste of Heaven. Such love and unity we have never witnessed, and the wonderful inspiring discourses delivered by the different ministers of God under the mighty anointing of the Spirit was food to our souls. It has truly been a time of feasting on the good things on our Heavenly Father's table. The altars were filled with seekers and we have not been able to keep the number of those who were sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost. Handkerchiefs were sent in to be prayed over for the sick and many requests for prayer and numbers prayed for who were here and wanted healing. God was truly with us and manifested his power to heal those who were sick. Among the number one night

was a man with his back and both limbs broken who had not walked without crutches in ten years. When they prayed for him the mighty power of God came down upon him, and he was healed, and left his crutches and ran out of the church house and around outside praising God, and the people following him and looking on at the mighty work of God. Wonderful and convincing messages were given in other tongues and interpreted. Wonderful visions seen, and one evening during the service a ball like as of fire was seen by some coming down and resting on the top of the church house which denotes God's presence. On Sunday morning as Brother J. S. Llewellyn delivered his wonderful discourse on "The Church a Distinct Government," the mighty power and presence of God was especially manifested as it swept over the large congregation and mighty and convincing messages were given out in other tongues and interpreted. A sister was carried to the platform by the power of the Holy Ghost and raised our General Overseer's hands and

united other hands with his to hold them up, thus demonstrating to us in the Church, how we should hold up his hands in this great battle of the Lord in these last days. The mighty power of the Holy Ghost that fell on the congregation and that wonderful scene can never be described. And during this a sister saw a vision of Jesus above the platform.

After all this, and the mighty discourses delivered by Brothers Payne, Lee, Lemons and others from the Word, and all the wonderful manifestations of the presence and power of God, it seems that any one with their spiritual eyes open can see God's favor and approval resting upon this Church in these last days above every other body of people.

One man said he had been to the different great Pentecostal conventions in different parts of the United States, and he had never seen anything to compare with this. A brother who had attended the Great Nation Wide Camp Meeting which was conducted in Philadelphia, Penn. said this far surpassed it.

It was wonderful to see how the people were so anxious to contribute of their means to the work of the Lord. They would shout, dance, and talk in tongues, and rejoice while the money flowed in. It reminds us of the days that followed Pentecost in the beginning, when "The multitude of them that believed were of one heart and one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own. Praise the Lord, this church is coming back to those days of love and unity again. She is rising and shining in these last days as darkness covers the earth, and gross darkness the people. Isa. 60:1, 2. Such a settling down of the saints on the Word of God, and the doctrine of Jesus and the Apostles, found in the Word we have never seen before so manifested.

Preparations for the establishing of a large Camp Ground and Orphanage are to begin at once here at head quarters. Several thousand dollars were contributed and more yet to come in. One business man of the town said he would donate five hundred dollars, and others also have promised to donate to this great work. We praise God for the favor He is giving us with the people. So the hammer and saw will soon be heard as the walls of the large tabernacle are erected for a Nation Wide Camp Meeting once or twice a year and also for the accommodation of the multitudes that gather here for the great Annual Assemblies.

God is truly with His Church and she is moving forward with a conquering tread.

We shall never forget the song that the colored saints sang in their service, "Didn't it Rain," for the rain of blessings was surely poured out upon this Assembly.

Your sister in the battle, Mrs. Clyde Haynes.

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Notice

John C. Pye lost somewhere in Cleveland a pocket book with a twenty-dollar bill, two pieces of German money, one French bill, one piece of Belgium money, and one piece of Italian money. Address, John C. Pye, Cole place No. 6. Newman, Ga.

Sevierville, Tenn.

Dear Brother Tomlinson, and Saints:

I feel like I must write (as I did not testify) of the great blessing I received during the Assembly. I was sanctified Oct. 31, and received the Holy Ghost Nov. 4, the last meeting of the Assembly. Praise His dear name. I pray God's blessings on all the dear saints who were interested in my soul. I am a flame of living fire for spreading the Lord. I will have to leave home on account of my experience but glory, anyway.

I want to take the Bible training course soon and go out in the work. I will begin at once to distribute Evangelists and collect contributions for the orphanage. That is on my heart as I have three children. I ask prayers for all my family and especially my husband as he is in darkness. Pray that my sister-in-law may be healed, also for my baby's eyes that she may not go blind.

We shall start a Sunday school soon. I am sure there are children up in the mountains who have never heard about Jesus. And this is life eternal that they might know thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3.) What precious words!

I've found a friend' oh, such a friend, He loved me e'er I knew Him, He drew me with the cords of love, And thus He bound me to Him.

And 'round my heart still closely twine, Those ties which none can sever, For I am His and He is mine Forever and forever.

And this Friend cares for every savage of our race even as He cares for me and why should He not? My little money will presently be found devoted to the cause but what is that? We can carry nothing with us when we are placed in the grave.

My message is that all who can should work in the great service while it is day, remembering the coming night. Who will heed the message?

May God bless Brother Tomlinson and all his workers.

Your sister in Christ Jesus, Mrs. May Johann.

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Church in Good Condition. Dear Brother Tomlinson, and Saints Scattered Abroad—Greetings:

I am glad to report victory. Brother Cagle and McNew held a revival at Crab Orchard, Tenn. The Lord blessed their efforts. Several were saved and sanctified, and two received the Holy Ghost with the Bible evidence. The church is in good condition, fighting the battle against sin. Pray for us.

Your brother in Christ, W. M. McBride.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

(On regeneration, sanctification, Baptism with the Holy Ghost, The Church of God, Speaking with tongues, etc.) By M. S. Lemons. This is a nice little book of thirty-one pages, giving instructions on important subjects. Price post paid: Single copy \$.10 Per dozen 1.20 Per 25 2.50 Per 50 3.25 Order of EVANGEL OFFICE

CHURCH OF GOD EVANGEL

The Great Assembly of the Churches of God.

The 14th Annual Assembly was in session from Oct. 29, to Nov. 4. Truly this is the greatest Assembly that has been held in the CHURCH OF GOD since the "EVENING LIGHT" began to dawn upon us. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." (Isa. 9:2.)

I have looked forward to the Assembly for some time with great anxiety. I expected great things but the Lord manifested Himself in such marvelous ways that it was much more than we could ever think of.

The Lord was present from the first to the last in great power. It would have been absolutely impossible for the love and unity which prevailed in the Assembly to have been, without God. Many who have attended several Assemblies say this is the greatest and best of all. Praise God. He didn't begin the work of the great CHURCH OF GOD to stay on a stand-still. He intended for her to rise and shine. The reports from most all of the workers from the field show that the work of the past year was the hardest but the greatest year for the Lord. The Church has had more opposition during the past year but she has shone brighter.

There are no words to express the sweetness and fellowship of the saints throughout the Assembly. The Lord was in the midst of every congregation. Even in the business of the Assembly the people were in a oneness. A few times some things were mentioned when some thought differently from others, but very soon the Lord took charge and all were one. Everything was carried unanimously.

The General Overseer's Annual Address was one of the first of the great things for us to enjoy. We learned many wonderful things concerning the progress of THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE GREAT CHURCH OF GOD.

The call of states and their response was a great occurrence of the Assembly. As each state rose and sang praises to God, our souls did feast. The sentiments of the songs reached us so forcibly. The music was good all the way through. Before each session the saints sang and sang songs of praises to God and apparently never tired of it for God gave strength and power with it. The string-band of Alabama City, Ala. was present and rendered much good music. Sister Pearl Adams and her children (who compose the brass-band) of Coffeeville, Miss. also attended the Assembly. It is truly wonderful to listen to the music which those children render. God is leading Sister Adams and her children. He has His hand upon them. Along with this we had Sister S. J. Heath of Georgia at the piano. Some of the best leaders led the singing and combining all these good things, it reminded me of the exhortation of David "Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH PRAISE THE LORD. PRAISE YE THE LORD." (Psa. 150.) We realize more than ever that our Heavenly Father is worthy of all the praises which we give Him

and many times more. When we read of the prophecy of Jesus and learn those good names which were given Him, Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace, we apply them all and then the half has never been conceived of His greatness and power.

As the programme was carried out and the speakers gave their interesting discourses on the Church, its government, the work of the Evangel and other interesting subjects, we could see plainer that we had the Bible way. No doubt, many who have been out in the dark fields of labor for Jesus and His body, the great Church of God, and have met with so much opposition, met with so many trials, temptations and persecutions, have become discouraged to some extent and perhaps some have been wavering. But I am sure those who were present and saw the manifestations of God and the way He sealed the teachings which His followers are giving were very much encouraged and with new zeal and courage, they will reinforce against the battlements of sin another year.

Brother M. S. Lemons of Atlanta, Ga. spoke on Danger Signals and Government. The Lord wonderfully placed His approval on this message. Brother Lemons mentioned quite a number of the dangers which are surrounding us and advised us to stop when we saw the signals. He showed so plainly that the government of the Church of God is the government of Christ. In Isaiah 6:7, we learn that OF THE INCREASE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND PEACE THERE SHALL BE NO END. The more government we have, the more peace we have. Praise God!

On Saturday morning, Brother F. J. Lee, Overseer of Florida, gave an extraordinary discourse on "Fidelity and Fealty." All the way through his discourse the presence of the Lord could be felt so forcibly. Surely the Holy Ghost witnessed to the whole discourse. He admonished and entreated the whole congregation to prove their fidelity to the Church of God and to Christ Himself. No one could have shown the Church of God in its beauty nor could have created more love for the great institution than he. I am sure all of us love the Church more and will do more for her since we listened to that great, humble man of God. He mentioned that divisions must come and when he did this, the power of God fell on the whole congregation. A message was received in tongues and interpreted. God said, "This is my voice, listen unto me, hearken unto my voice, I am with thee, pay no attention to divisions. I am on your side, I will preserve you. Weep not, mourn not, I have great things in store for you. I have great blessings for you if you will obey my Word." Who could not love our great church and government more after listening to these sweet words? Glory to Jesus! We knew already that we were right but now we have a greater knowledge and a better assurance. Praise God!

On Saturday afternoon, it was necessary to carry over most of the programme because the subject of an Assembly Building and Orphanage was mentioned. People were so anxious to contribute that the collection and subscription continued most all the afternoon. In the very near future you will hear that the building has begun. Aren't we serving a powerful God? Let us do our best for Him.

On Sunday A. M. Brother Milton Padgett addressed the Assembly on the work of the Bahama Islands. I am sure that

it created a new zeal for mission work within the hearts of many. He mentioned that the natives were hungry to know more of God. At once volunteer contributions flowed in till \$225 were collected to send the Evangel to the people and to bear the expenses of one or more to the Assembly next year. Our people have learned to shout and rejoice over collections for God as easy as any other good work. All contributions were freely given.

When Brother J. S. Llewellyn, Overseer of Tenn. gave the wonderful discourse on "The Church a Distinct Government," the Lord blessed him in giving out the message and those who received it, so good that we knew He was so close that we could almost see His smiling face. The Lord put His approval on all of the message. It was truly sealed by the Holy Ghost. The presence of the Lord seemed to be greater in every service. At the close of the discourse God manifested His power and presence in a wonderful way. One of the saints under the power of God rushed through the crowd to the General Overseer. She directed the brothers who were standing by to unite or join their hands and hold up his hands. The sisters were directed to hold up Sister Tomlinson's hands in the same way. All of this was done under the power of God. Following this was a message given in tongues and interpreted thus: "Will you stand by him when you get out on the battle-field again? Will you stick to him? Will you hold his hands up? I am with him. I am leading him. Submit yourselves to those who are over you in the Lord." Can you doubt that our General Overseer is divinely appointed? Let us hold his hands up as Aaron and Hur held up the hands of Moses during the battle of Israel and Amalek. "And it came to pass when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy."*** and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword." (Ex. 17:11-13.)

Sisters Flora Bohman and Flora Trim gave some excellent talks on Missions and Evangelism. Surely the gospel will be spread faster than before since listening to those good talks. Brother T. S. Payne also gave information and advice on missionary work. He delivered a wonderful discourse on Loyalty and Impregnability. The Lord was at the back of the whole message. It was rich food to our souls. We could truly sing, Feasting with my Lord.

There are many, many other good things but space will not permit a discussion of all.

The colored people rendered a good programme on one afternoon. We are glad to realize how wonderfully the Lord is blessing the colored people in their work. Their testimonies and songs were good and inspiring.

I can safely say the Church of God people can smile the most and best, laugh the most and best, cry the most and best, pray the most and best, sing the most and best, shout the most and best of all people and just at the right time. It was wonderful to see all of this done in its due time. We truly observe, Let all things be done decently and in order.

By the end of another year, if Jesus tarries, very likely we can observe more fully this verse, Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting

one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching, for we are expecting to assemble in camp meetings and the General Assembly too in a new auditorium. Praise God for His blessings.

An humble sister determined to stand true to the Church of God and her government.

Minnie E. Johnson.

The Assembly

Cleveland, Tenn.

To the Church of God at Miami, Fla. with the Bishops, Deacons, and Evangelists, In Jesus' Precious Name—Greeting:

Beloved, I am well, God bless you. I have enjoyed the Assembly. It was wonderful. I can't describe it with pencil but I will try to tell as much about it as I can when I come D. V. and then the half will not be told. It was like heaven to me. It was wonderful, oh, wonderful. I know you will be satisfied when I come and you will be glad that you sent me.

Dear saints, the Church of God with headquarters at Cleveland Tenn. is right. We know it is right. Don't let anyone turn you around. They are already making provisions for a party of the saints of Nassau and the saints of America (colored) to come to the next Assembly. They are giving us a wonderful good time. The white saints love us. God bless them, but we want to have wisdom and not cause them any trouble if it is God's will.

A wonderful unity is being brought about and those who do not mean to abide in the doctrine of the Church of God will be on the outside. Praise God. The colored saints could not have treated us better.

Oh, what a sweet thing it is to be really humble. Beloved, God is with us. Let us walk humbly with Him. We cannot start anything else and call it the Church of God and be right. Let us continue in that which we have learned. As for me I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of God, which is the Church of God, than to be in the pulpit of any other place. And now, my dearly beloved, I commend you to God and the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified. Pray for me. God bless you all.

Your humble servant and brother in the Lord,

Thos. B. Smith.

The Great Assembly

The fourteenth Annual Assembly of the great Church of God can truly be called the great Assembly. It began its session Oct. 29 and continued to the 4th of November.

Among the first presented was the General Overseer's Annual Address. This was an extensive address covering a great scope of activities and possibilities of the church. It was a masterpiece within itself, full of love and devotion. It shows that Brother Tomlinson's life and activities are governed by the great Spirit of God.

About twenty-six states, Canada, and the Bahama Islands were represented. Every service was attended by a multitude of people. The seating capacity was used up and the people were packed and jammed.

Brother F. J. Lee delivered an able address on the "White Winged Messenger," the Church of God Evangel, showing its value, usefulness and function in the great spread of the gospel. Many plausible incidents mentioned about how it had helped people heavenward. The people present said they had rather read the Evangel than any other paper.

The Lord's collection for the

Orphan's Home and Assembly building was a great incident, the like of which, hundreds of people had never seen. While doing the regular business of the Assembly one fellow arose and said he would give one hundred dollars on a new Assembly building, another said he would give a thousand dollars. This continued till over five thousand three hundred dollars were paid and subscribed for the Assembly building and orphanage. Every one seemed to be gratified over the way the Lord moved upon people's hearts.

While Brother Milton Padgett was discussing the conditions of the Bahama Islands, he stated that they liked to read the Evangel, and said he would pay the subscription for one, to which others responded till two hundred twenty-five dollars were collected for these poor natives. This also was a marvelous event, which delighted the whole audience.

Sunday morning Brother J. S. Llewellyn delivered his great address on the church, at the end of which the Assembly reached its climax. The power fell on one of the sisters and she went and held up Brother A. J. Tomlinson's hands. Others under the same power of the Spirit held up Sister Tomlinson's hands. Then followed some messages in tongues with interpretations telling the saints to be loyal to the Church and stand by Brother Tomlinson and hold up his hands in time of persecutions. I wish each member of the great Church of God could have observed this divine scene. One sister stated that she saw Jesus in a vision over Brother and Sister Tomlinson while this was going on. Surely the Lord is with the General Overseer and the great Church of God. None of the saints now doubt this being the true Church of God, the body of the Lord.

The Sisters were not neglected either. A number delivered able, intelligent addresses before the Assembly. This convinces me that the Lord wants women preachers as well as men.

The music and testimonies of the colored brothers and sisters are worthy of mention. The whole Assembly was delighted with their singing and instrumental music. They have the baptism with the Holy Ghost and the fellowship was easily felt. They proved to be intelligent, loyal saints. One stated that he did not expect the white saints to treat him as they treated each other for him to know they loved him. He knew this without such demonstrations.

Brother T. S. Payne's address on Loyalty was a masterpiece of oratory, and yet it was full of love, and as solid as a rock.

The love, unity, and fellowship of the saints is indescribable. Words can't be put together to describe this great feature of the Assembly. I wish I could tell it as it was. The intelligent appearance of the officers, board of elders, and overseers were quite marked, and when I heard them speak, I was convinced that Brother Tomlinson used great wisdom in making his selections and appointments. And Brother Tomlinson has proven to be a man of great executive ability, and I am convinced that he is divinely appointed, for the great position which he holds. The people of the Assembly are convinced that he is a busy man, when he is kept busy the day through until late at night.

Sister Tomlinson and her daughter Iris Marie, with their smiles, kind acts, and friendly considerations, made the saints happy while in her home. If you have seen them I'm sure you can't help but love them. In her home every thing worked in perfect harmony.

On the last evening at the

close of the Assembly we had an old fashion handshake.

After this the people began to return home, with bundles of Evangel, and bunches of tracts, etc. exulted and gratified over the Great Assembly which had just closed.

I wish my ability and intelligence was of such as to do this subject justice.

Yours in the Master's service,
C. Sowell, Jennings, Fla.

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